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THE

RAGGED SCHOOL UNION

MAGAZINE.

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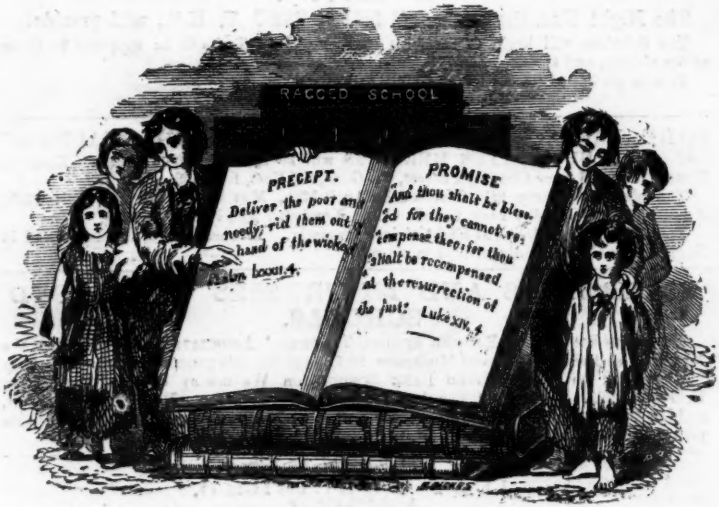
RAGGED SCHOOL
PRECEPT.
Deliver the poor and needy; rid them out of the hand of the wicked. Psalm lxxxii. 4.
PROMISE
And thou shalt be blessed for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just. Luke xiv. 4

"The word of the Lord endureth for ever."—1 Peter i. 25.

PROFITS DEVOTED TO RAGGED SCHOOLS.

LONDON:
KENT & CO., PATERNOSTER ROW.
JOHNSTONE AND HUNTER, EDINBURGH; ROBERTSON, DUBLIN; AND ALL BOOKSELLERS.

* * All Communications to be addressed to the Editor, 1, Exeter Hall, London.
* Orders for Advertisements to be sent to Robert K. Burt, Printer, Holborn Hill.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.—The Committee beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of a roll of linsey for Lamb and Flag Schools from Miss Bodkin; a parcel of clothing from E. Trimmer, Esq.; a parcel of clothing from "A Friend" at Cheltenham; clothing, &c., from Mrs. Symons'; a parcel of books from Mrs. Reade for School Library; also a parcel of shirts, &c., from Mrs. Reade.

Parcels of Left-off Wearing Apparel, for distribution to the Children, and for our Industrial Classes, also Books or Magazines for forming School Libraries, will be thankfully acknowledged by Mr. JOSEPH G. GENT, 1, Exeter Hall, W.C.

SCHOLARS' PRIZE MEETING.

The Meeting for Distributing the Prizes awarded by the Committee of the RAGGED SCHOOL UNION to Scholars for having remained in one place for at least Twelve Months, with good character, will be held in

EXETER HALL, STRAND,

In MARCH, 1865.

The Right Hon. the EARL OF SHAFTESBURY, K.G., will preside.

The Scholars will begin to assemble at Five o'clock, Tea will be supplied to them at Six o'clock, and the Chair will be taken at Seven.

Tickets are issued from 1, Exeter Hall, Strand.

Further particulars will be announced.

THE EAST OF LONDON RAGGED SCHOOL TEACHERS' MONTHLY PRAYER MEETINGS will be held in SMITH'S PLACE RAGGED SCHOOL-ROOM, Lower Chapman Street, St. George's, East, for 1865, as under:—

Thursdays, February 9th, March 9th, April 13th, May 11th, June 8th, July 13th, August 10th, September 14th, October 12th, November 9th, December 14th.

The Chair will be taken at Eight o'clock precisely. Teachers and others interested in Ragged Schools are kindly invited to attend.

TO MASTERS AND MISTRESSES OF RAGGED SCHOOLS.

The Committee of the RAGGED SCHOOL TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION beg to inform the Members, and the Masters and Mistresses, of Ragged Schools generally, that a Quarterly Meeting will be held in FIELD LANE SCHOOL, on Wednesday evening, the 9th of February, 1865. Subject:—"The class of Scholars that attend our Night Ragged Schools, and the Education they receive." Chair will be taken at Seven o'clock. Tea will be provided at Six o'clock. Charge, 3d. each.

SIZE, 8¼ INCHES BY 5½ INCHES.

JUST PUBLISHED,

A PORTRAIT OF

The Right Hon. the EARL OF SHAFTESBURY, K.G.

Engraved on Steel by JOSEPH BROWN, from a Photograph just taken by Messrs. WALKER & SONS.

PRICE TWO SHILLINGS AND SIXPENCE.

Names received by, and impressions obtained of, Mr. GENT, 1, Exeter Hall, Strand. The profits to be devoted to the funds of the Ragged School Union.

1864.

Please let me have _____ *impressions of Lord Shaftesbury's Portrait, at* _____ *per Advertisement, at 2s. 6d. each.*

Name. _____

Address. _____

To Mr. Gent,
1, Exeter Hall, W.C.

The Committee have published an edition of this popular Portrait expressly for Ragged School Teachers, at One Shilling each copy.

THE GIRLS' REFUGE

AND

KING EDWARD RAGGED SCHOOLS,

ALBERT STREET, SPITALFIELDS.

President:

The Right Hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G.

Subscriptions and Donations are earnestly solicited on behalf of this Institution. The operations are very varied, and consist of—

Refuge for Girls wholly destitute, who are housed, clothed, fed, and trained to habits of industry.

Ragged Schools—Boys, Girls, and Infants; Morning, Afternoon, and Evening. Sunday as well as Day Schools.

Ragged Church. Sunday and other services in King Edward Street.

Mothers' Meetings, Lectures, Penny Bank, &c.

The whole of these operations are carried on in the freehold premises in Albert Street and King Edward Street.

The Committee are most anxious to complete the buildings by the addition of a house for the residence of the Matron and Teachers. Their present accommodation is very limited and inconvenient; and before any great accession to the number in the Refuge can be made, it will be necessary to add this desirable appendage to their present establishment.

Subscriptions and Donations will be thankfully received by the Hon. Secretary,

MR. H. R. WILLIAMS,

CROSBY HALL,

BISHOPSGATE STREET, E.C.

WANTED, by a Pious, Active Teacher, a Ragged School. Needlework, Singing. Address, Mistress, Mayland School, Maldon, Essex.

J. E. EAREE,

BREAKFAST AND TEA CONTRACTOR,

127, HACKNEY ROAD, NEAR SHOREDITCH CHURCH.

J. E. E. respectfully begs to inform the Clergy, Superintendents of Schools, and others who are in the practice of commemorating their Anniversaries, etc., by Public Breakfasts and Tea Meetings, that he has every requisite for such occasions, comprising Tables, Coppers, and China to any extent, in a superior style, at extremely moderate charges.

J. E. E. tenders his sincere thanks to those ladies and gentlemen who have hitherto favoured him with their kind patronage, and hopes by strict attention to ensure a continuance of the same; he also begs most respectfully to solicit the favour of their recommendation.

Rout Seats on Reasonable Terms. Vans, and every requisite for Excursion Parties, with the entire Management, taken by Contract

COMMUNICATIONS BY POST IMMEDIATELY ATTENDED TO.

References are kindly permitted to be made to the Secretaries of the Ragged School Union and the Temperance League.

ANOTHER CURE OF LONG-STANDING ASTHMA

BY

"Caldicot.—I was afflicted for years with a most violent asthma, with shortness and difficulty of breathing, and at times a cough so bad as to cause me violent vomiting and dry retching. I tried nearly all the medical men about here, but from Dr. Locock's Wafers I found relief almost immediately. Jas. Gardner. Witness, Mr. T. I. Jones, Chemist, 5, High-street, Newport." All throat affections are immediately relieved by allowing one occasionally to dissolve in the mouth. To Singers and Public Speakers they are invaluable for clearing and strengthening the voice. They have a pleasant taste. Price 1s. 1½d., 2s. 9d., 4s. 6d., and 11s. per box. Sold by all Medicine Vendors.

A CHILD CURED OT FITS BY DR. LOCOCK'S POWDERS.

Mrs. Hinitt, Welshgate, Bewdley, Dec. 24, 1864, writes:—"My little girl, age seven years, has been troubled with fits for two years, but since taking Dr. Locock's Powders she has not had one." Dr. Locock's Powders relieve all disorders of children, and are sold in packets at 1s. 1½d., 2s. 9d., & 4s. 6d., by all Druggists.

HORNIMAN'S
PURE TEA

THE

Choicest growth without mineral color on the leaf.

It is moderate in price, and very wholesome to use.

2s. 4d., 2s. 8d., 4s., and 4s. 4d. per pound.

Sold by AGENTS, all Packets are signed,

Horniman & Co. LONDON.

Original Importers of the Pure Tea.

Used in the Palaces of

THE QUEEN

and the

PRINCE OF WALES

MORE CLEANLY,

Because being in Blocks it does not drop about, and

POLISHES MORE QUICKLY,

Thus saving the time and labour of the user.

Sold by Grocers, Druggists, Ironmongers, &c.

RECKITT & SONS,

LONDON BRIDGE, E.C.; AND HULL.

SPECIAL APPEAL
FOR THE
EAST LONDON REFUGE.

This Charity was established in 1854 for the purpose of affording a home and employment for 120 poor destitute boys attending the ragged schools in the east of London.

The branches of industry taught are blacking-making, brushmaking, and shoeblacking in the streets, with elementary education after the day's work is over. There is refuge accommodation for 47, the rest have homes (if such they can be called). No less than 2,800 of these poor boys have been benefited since its commencement, and the Committee are still carrying on their labours with great success.

The Refuge being situate in the poorest part of London, cannot expect much assistance from its own locality, and if further help does not come in (especially at this season of the year) the efforts of the Committee will be greatly checked, and much evil let loose upon society. To avert this calamity, additional help is most earnestly solicited.

The Committee thankfully acknowledge the following:—

	£	s.	d.
Collections after Sermons at St. Michael's Church, Cornhill	28	3	1
The Grocers' Company	20	0	0
Dowager Lady Buxton	10	0	0
Lewis Lloyd, Esq.	10	0	0
Dowager Duchess of Manchester ...	2	0	0
Messrs. Williams, Deacon, & Co. ...	5	0	0
Messrs. Dimsdale & Co.	2	0	0
Heathfield Smith, Esq.	2	2	0
W. B. Tristram, Esq.	2	2	0
Postage stamps (various times)	2	5	0
Mrs. Anketell	0	10	0
Miss Jerome	0	5	0

	£	s.	d.
His Grace the Duke of —	5	0	0
Rev. W. Bilton	1	0	0
J. Atherly, Esq.	0	5	0
The Gunmakers' Company	5	0	0
Mrs. Watts	0	10	0
Miss Robson	0	10	0
E. M.	5	0	0
Miss E. Majoribanks	5	0	0
The Salters' Company	10	10	0
The Pewterers' Company	5	5	0
G. Sirrac, Esq.	1	0	0
J. G. Talbot, Esq.	2	0	0

To maintain this Institution in an efficient state, an annual income of £400 is required by subscriptions. The present list amounts to about £120. Further donations and subscriptions will be most gratefully received by any member of Committee; or by S. Wise, Manager and Secretary, at the Refuge, 4, Mansell Street, Whitechapel, E.

MOST URGENT.

BLUEGATE FIELDS
RAGGED SCHOOLS AND CHURCH,
SHADWELL, E.

These Schools were established in 1857, and are situate in a most sunken neighbourhood adjoining the notorious Ratcliff Highway. The locality *abounds* with houses of ill-fame and those of the lowest possible grade. Nearly 300 destitute and neglected children, but for these schools, would go altogether untaught. The Committee are now compelled to Appeal for Funds. The Treasurer has largely advanced, and unless help come this Institution cannot be carried on.

Donations thankfully received either by Mr. J. G. Gent, Ragged School Union, 1, Exeter Hall; or W. H. HATCHARD, *Hon. Sec.*
No. 7, Albion Terrace, Commercial Road, E.

"EXCELSIOR" "EXCELSIOR"
FAMILY SEWING AND EMBROIDERING MACHINE

Is easy to operate, simple to learn, quiet in action, and not liable to derangement. It will TUCK, HEM, FELL, GATHER, CORD, QUILT, BRAID, and EMBROIDER, sew from two ordinary reels, and the seam, if cut at every inch, will not rip. Price, from £6 6s.

The New STAR PATENT IMPROVED DOUBLE ACTION ARM MACHINE for Bootmakers and Manufacturers generally. Complete, £10 10s.

WHIGHT and MANN, 143, Holborn Bars, London.
MANUFACTORY: GIPPING WORKS, IPSWICH.

FRIENDLESS AND FALLEN.

London Female Preventive and Reformatory Institution.

OFFICE: 200, EUSTON ROAD, N.W.

SUMMARY OF WORK, 1864.

(See PSALM CXV. 1.)

In the Homes, December, 1863	76	Situations provided	226
Admitted during 1864	311	Restored to friends	49
Readmitted from Service	74	Married	2
		Emigrated	3
		Died	0
		*Dismissed	15
		*Left voluntarily	77
		In Homes, December 31, 1864	89
	461		461

showing that though unable to endure the transition from freedom from all restraint to salutary supervision, it is not matter of course that the poor creatures return to a sinful life.

SUMMARY, FROM SEPTEMBER, 1857, TO JANUARY 1st, 1865.

Total cases	1478	Situations provided	863
Total Readmissions	287	Restored to friends	346
		Married	23
		Emigrated	12
		Died	5
		Dismissed	46
		Left	81
		In Homes, January, 1864	89
	1765		1765

CLASSIFICATION—

1857 to 1865.

1. No previous occupation	53
2. Domestic Servants	1026
3. Needlewomen	399
	1478
†1. Fatherless	283
†2. Motherless	231
†3. Entire Orphans	470
4. Parents living	405
5. Uncertain if alive	89
	1478

ASSIGNED CAUSES OF FALL

In Cases in 1864.

1. Breach of promise of marriage	62
2. Inebriety and bad company	53
3. Destitution	39
4. Gaiety, love of dress and liberty	24
5. Depravity of employers	19
6. Various causes	29
	226
7. Preventive cases, 1864	85
	311

BIRTHPLACES.

Beds, Berks, Bucks, Cheshire, Cornwall, Essex, Derby, Devon, Gloucestershire, Hants, Herts, Herefordshire, Lancashire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Nottinghamshire, Northumberland, Oxon, Staffordshire, Surrey, Sussex, Somersetshire, Warwickshire, Wiltshire, Yorkshire, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Belgium, France, Italy, Holland, Spain, America, New Brunswick, and Ionian Isles.

CHANNELS THROUGH WHICH CASES WERE SUPPLIED.

Voluntary Applications		75
Recommended by Subscribers		44
,,	Private Individuals	47
,,	The Ministry	27
,,	City Missionaries	10
,,	Magistrates	2
,,	Former Inmates	9
,,	Mid. Meet. Movmt.	56
,,	R. R. Union	27
,,	Kindred Societies.	12
,,	The Press	2
Total Cases		311

Contributions for the Work of 1865 *are solicited.*

E. W. THOMAS, *Secretary.*

* As regards those who leave or are dismissed, many instances occur of their returning to the Homes to see the Matrons, and informing them of their having sought and obtained employment;

† The readers will not fail to observe the large proportion of partial or entire orphans. In some of the former cases a second marriage of the parents has been followed by a second family, and the first has been thrust out into the world to shift for themselves; and even if favoured by having both parents alive, many of these poor creatures show that little regard has been paid to their religious, moral, or industrial training in their early youth.

Papers, Original and Selected.

MEAT FOR THE POOR.

It would be well if the friends of Refuges and Ragged Schools that supply food to their scholars would give their attention to the jerked (*charqui*) beef of South America, and ascertain whether it could not be adopted in lieu of the ordinary meat now used. The advantages seem twofold—1st, less cost; 2nd, greater nutriment. The price is said to be 3d. per lb., or about half to a third of the cost of ordinary beef. The real difference is perhaps greater than this, for it is said that 1 lb. of jerked beef is equal to 3 lbs., with bone, of the home stock meat. A French cook states he can make better soup in France than in England from the meat supplied by the respective countries; but in using the jerked beef, which would be common to both countries, he not only finds 1 lb. of the former equal to 3 lbs. of the latter, but the gravy is of a finer quality. The results of analysis of this beef are:—water, 17.94; ash, 21.66; fat, 3.05; and nitrogenized substances, 57.35; total 100. The nitrogenized substances, therefore, far exceed the per-centage yielded by our corn beef, which is only 5.88. If such be the facts, we think it would be well for Refuges, Ragged Schools, Soup-kitchens, Workhouses, and all institutions supplying food to the poor, at once to give the subject their serious consideration.

The names of the merchants comprising the commission for the introduction of the beef will be found, with much other information, in a pamphlet on the subject published by Hedderwick & Son, of Glasgow. The wholesale agents are Messrs. James Gordon & Co., 11, Orange Court, Liverpool, and Messrs. Steel, of 5, Dixon Street, Glasgow. It is sent out in cases of one hundredweight. We may repeat that the jerked beef is prepared from the choicest parts of the animal; and, while it is not expected to supersede the use of fresh meat, it is believed that no greater boon has been lately offered to the under-fed classes of Great Britain. The following directions for cooking the beef have been published by authority of the commission:—Steep the beef for three or four hours, or wash it well in hot water. 1st. Cut it in small pieces,

about an inch square; simmer it by the fire for one and a half hours, add potatoes, pepper, and onions, and again cook slowly until ready. It will then be found a very good Irish stew. 2nd. Mince in the form of mince collops; cook it slowly, and when ready mix it up with mashed potatoes. It may then be put in a dish, and browned in the oven. 3rd. Cut into pieces, and after simmering an hour and a half add turnips, carrots, or other vegetables, such as used in a haricot. 4th. It will also make very good pea-soup, and is also used in first-class hotels for giving a delightful flavour to all kinds of soup, particularly to kidney and other similar classes. In short, a good housewife will find a hundred ways of making it available and agreeable. 5th. It can be used as mince collops, without potatoes; and a flitch is sometimes taken, rolled up and spiced in the form of a beef ham, which must be cooked slowly.

The subject will be soon brought under discussion before the Royal Society of Arts, when a paper promised by Mr. Warriner, instructor of cookery to the army, will be read on preserved meats in general, and when will be illustrated and tested, in various ways, the meat which has been preserved by patents taken out during the last fifty years. It is proposed soon to open a place in the City, where the public at large will have the opportunity of proving to their own satisfaction these novel viands, and where small quantities may be obtained to test at home in a more domestic manner. The following letter on the subject appeared in the *Times*:—

"Sir,—Under the heading of 'Beef at Threepence per Pound,' your impression of Wednesday states that you have received numerous applications for the address of the dealers from whom it can be obtained. Permit me, for the benefit of the public, and especially of the working classes, to inform you that the beef can be had in London at the office of the South American Beef Company, 153, Cheapside, in parcels of 112 lbs., rolled and free from bone, or delivered carriage free to any part of London, at the same price—viz., 3d. per lb. Printed directions for the preparation and cooking of the article are given with each article. The jerked beef, which has been imported for some years, and has had a gradually increasing sale, is prepared, as you are aware, by being dried in the sun; but we have now also a cargo of the same beef wet-salted, which is sold at the same price.

"I forward you samples of the two kinds, and shall be pleased to send sample parcels to any charitable institution. The nutritive qualities of this beef have been sufficiently vouched for by Dr. Guthrie, and other eminent men who have interested themselves in its introduction to the public, believing that it would prove a great boon to the labouring class. It is in contemplation to follow the good example set in Glasgow and other northern towns by the getting up public dinners for the working classes, and thus aid its introduction. The public is indebted to you for calling

attention to the beef. One line from you will do more to place this on the table of the workman than a volume written by the merchants who have imported it.

"Trusting that you will be able to find space for this letter,

"I am, Sir, yours obediently,

"J. RICHARDSON,

(For the S. A. Beef Company, 153, Cheapside, and 2, Bond Place, Leeds)."

In addition to the above, the following letter also appeared in the *Times* on Monday, January 23 :—

"Sir,—In the various communications to the *Times* on the above subject I have not observed the philosophy of the subject treated, and with your permission will endeavour to make it clear.

"The earliest notices on the subject are given in the voyages and travels of the circumnavigators and bucaniers, and the article is therein commonly called 'jerked beef.' The bucaniers were originally driers of meat, not especially beef, but of swine's flesh, prepared by smoking, so called from the French word *boucaner*, to dry by smoke, as the Caribs did by the prisoners they ate. The 'jerked' beef is a sailor's corruption from the colonial Spanish *charqui*, evidently a corruption in turn from the *chair cuit* of dried flesh of the French bucaniers, and to this day a French pork butcher is called a *charcutier*, because originally pork was sold in the dried form of ham and bacon.

"*Charqui* proper as prepared in Chili is the muscular fibre of beeves pared from the bones in thin flakes or strings, with all the fat extracted, and then exposed to the sun to dry, which process takes place in the course of a few hours, all the moisture disappearing in the dry air, and the meat remaining in the condition of glue, not subject to putrefy, but only to engender mites like cheese. No flavour is lost in the process, as when the carcases of animals are frozen, other than a change similar to that of preparing 'raisins of the sun' from grapes. The meat thus dried is usually packed in bags formed of dried hides. Chili is the especial country of *charqui*, because, while it is a great cattle-producing country for its area, a large portion of it has an especially dry atmosphere. My first acquaintance with this meat was on a journey, when, for my sins, I undertook to prepare supper, and so boiled the dried meat in an earthen pipkin. My guide grinned askance, at what I knew not; but it soon came out, for after boiling the meat for an hour I thought it was done enough, and tried to eat it, but found that I was of that especial race of cooks said to be sent from below, for the meat was very like india-rubber in the chewing; so I turned it bodily over to my man Friday, and watched his process. First he toasted the meat on the red embers of the wood fire till it began to hiss; then he selected a large flat stone, on which he pounded the meat to shreds with another stone, and then restored it to the pipkin with a lump of dripping fat dyed to a deep Indian red with ground capsicum. Then he sliced in some onions and hard-boiled eggs, added a portion of salt, with two or three small red pepperpods and boiled potatoes, and finally turned out a stew for which Esau might have sold his birthright twice over. This dish is in Chili called a *charquican*—a national dish of which there is a tradition that once a Pope of Rome, having ordered to be prepared for him the national dishes of all nations, and tasted them in succession, gave orders that henceforth he would have *charquican* three days in the week.

"For travelling purposes this meat is prepared ready-pounded, and packed in lamb or sheep skins with butter or dripping, and is analogous to the preparation of flesh called pemmican, only that is prepared by smoking in North America.

"*Charqui* proper can only be prepared in a dry atmosphere, and the climate of the Pampas and River Plate is a moist atmosphere, and therefore the natives do not

prepare *charqui*, but only *tasaje—i.e.*, meat salted and hung in the air to partly dry, in short, hung beef, which is exported to the West Indies to feed the blacks; and this, probably, is the 'moist beef in rolls' alluded to by your correspondents. But it will not compare with the *charqui* of Chili, one pound of which is equal in nutriment to three or four pounds of fresh meat from which the water has not been abstracted. It is well known that the application of salt to muscular fibre destroys to a great extent its nutritive qualities.

"Australia is an analogous climate to Chili, and, no doubt, first-rate *charqui* could be produced there; and probably this would be the most profitable mode of making it an article of merchandise, by lessening the freight. But Australia can also produce a first-rate article of beef hermetically sealed in metal cases. Some years since I was talking with Alderman Finnis on the subject of emigrant transit, and he said he fed those emigrants on fresh preserved meat in cases, which was prepared in Australia, and he realized it in London at 4d. per lb. To satisfy me of its excellence he sent me a case containing 8lb., which was of such good quality that I partook of it several days in succession, preferring it to fresh butcher's meat.

"There are, no doubt, many countries in the world producing cattle in abundance, and by various understood processes their flesh might be preserved and sent to countries deficient in cattle. But the produce of the Pampas is not unlimited. Generally a moist climate, with abundance of grass, there nevertheless occurs a drought once in five or seven years, and the lean kine of Pharaoh are reproduced. They die in herds around dried-up water-courses and manure the land. The new process of curing animal bodies by injection through the veins and arteries, driving out the blood and replacing it by brine, is a very cheap, simple, and effectual one; but the brine will destroy much nutriment, and unless some other antiseptic than salt can be applied so as to economise the nutriment it will not be the preferable process.

"But there is a process by which *charqui* proper may be produced in moist climates. It is by artificial desiccators, in which the fresh meat, cut into shreds and strings of exact size, just as a Yankee pares apples, or a Neapolitan splices maccaroni, may be placed and thus deprived of its moisture by dry air heated to the most effective temperature. The best cattle are those of moist climates, and their flesh, with the fat abstracted and the moisture dried away, will leave little to be desired. It is by no means sure that our own farmers may not eventually take up the dried meat manufacture as a business, because they would thus utilize the whole muscular fibre, without risk of putridity, keeping the garbage on the farm for manure. There is a material called 'stock' familiar to all cooks—that is to say, gelatine prepared in many ways from many substances, all culminating in the article glue, which, for aught we know, may also be intercepted direct on its way to the joiner; and this 'stock' forms soups, 'hari,' or gravy, or giblet, or mutton broth, according to the fancy of the vendors. It is quite possible that *charqui* proper, whether made in South or North America, or Australia, or Europe, may gradually set aside all the heterogeneous mixtures; and I shall be very glad if this hint should set enterprising people to work on the 'further improvements' desiderated by your correspondent.

"I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

"W. BRIDGES ADAMS."

We shall be glad to refer again to this subject as soon as it has been more fully tested, and its advantages, especially as they may relate to our Institution, may be ascertained.

HANNAH BAILEY AND "THE ROCK OF AGES."

ONE summer evening a little girl, carrying a large bundle, was slowly walking along the principal street of the village of Hulton, when the sound of music arrested her steps. The sweet tones proceeded from a cottage which stood at a little distance from the road, and involuntarily the child drew near the gate to listen. All around was very calm and quiet. No passing carriages, no noisy, happy children disturbed the stillness of the moment; and as the music came floating down the lawn, blended with the faint rustling of the leaves and the indescribable hum of insect life, it might have attracted an older and more critical person than the ragged, weary-looking child, who had dropped her bundle, and stood peeping through the lattice. The tune was simple, but the tones of the piano were rich and full, the voice sweet and clear; and though the child could not distinguish the words, she felt they must be good.

"Ain't it pretty?" she said, half aloud, to herself, after listening attentively for a few moments; and her eyes brightened. "I know who it is; it is the doctor's daughter playin' on her piana."

While she spoke the music ceased. She waited some time, but all remained quiet; and slowly and reluctantly she moved away, and prepared to take up her bundle, while the happy look faded from her face.

Suddenly she turned, and again spoke aloud.

"I mean," she said, "to go and ask her to sing something to me;" and she hurriedly unlatched the gate and took a few steps up the gravelled walk. Then she paused, and glanced down at her torn dress and bare feet. "I don't look very nice," she murmured; and an expression half sorrow, half shame, shadowed her countenance. "But they say Miss Nettie's good-natured, and I guess I'll go;" and she walked hastily on to the porch.

The hall door was open, as also was the parlour door; so the child could look in and see a young girl sitting before the piano. She was about sixteen; not beautiful, but she had soft brown hair, a white brow, and a smile that seemed to fill the room with sunshine. She was busily engaged in arranging music, and did not at first observe the child, who had not courage to knock. At last she raised her eyes, and started with surprise, but said kindly,—

"Come in, little girl."

Encouraged by her manner, the child entered the pleasant parlour, and stood amazed at the comfort and cheerfulness of the room. There were bright flowers all about, bright curtains, and a bright carpet that felt soft to her feet; but in the midst of this brightness she remained bewildered and silent, thinking again with regret of her ragged and soiled dressed. Twice the young lady asked, "What do you want, my child?"

Then she answered, "I heard your singing in the street, and I thought perhaps you would sing something to *me*. Will you, please?"

"Yes, certainly," answered the astonished young girl. "What would you like?"

"I don't know, ma'am; you know," said the child.

But Nettie Grant did not know; and never in her life was she so puzzled to decide what to play. She turned over her music in great perplexity, but

could find nothing suited to this forlorn-looking child. So she laid it aside, and striking a few chords, began to sing the tune the girl had listened to in the street. The words were those of that sublime hymn,—

"Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee."

Nettie sang the verses with distinctness and expression, and in listening to her the child forgot the brightness about, and her own dark poverty; the colour came to her pale cheek, and she remained perfectly motionless, with her head slightly bent forward.

"Do you like that hymn?" asked Nettie, when she had finished.

"Oh, very much," answered the child; and a little sigh came from her full heart.

"Now," said Nettie, "will you tell me what your name is, and where you live?"

"My name is Hannah Bailey," was the answer; "and I live with father in a little house by the bridge."

"And your mother?" said Nettie, inquiringly.

"Mother died four years ago," replied the girl, gently.

"Who takes care of you?" asked Nettie. "Have you any brothers or sisters?"

"No," answered Hannah, "I take care of myself; I'm eleven years old."

"Do you go to church or to the Ragged School?"

"No, ma'am."

"Would you like to go?" persisted Nettie.

"I don't know as I should," said the girl, indifferently.

"Hannah!" said Nettie, after a pause, "do you like to hear me sing?"

"Oh, yes, indeed," was the animated reply.

"Well," said Nettie, "if you will go to the Ragged School, I will sing to you every week if you will come here."

"I'll go," said the child, decidedly; and then the voice dropped, and she added, "Perhaps father won't let me. He won't unless he's sober; and I haven't got any clothes."

"If your father will let you," said Nettie, "and you will promise to go, you shall have some clothes."

The child looked pleased. Then, as it was getting dark, she hastened home. Nettie watched her as she ran down the walk, and heard her repeating to herself all of those beautiful words she could remember—"Rock of Ages, *rock for me*." Before the next Sabbath some ladies interested by Nettie visited Hannah's home. It was a wretched hovel, to which heat and cold, storm and sunshine, were freely admitted by the broken doors and windows, and was almost entirely destitute of furniture. No one could doubt that little Hannah had often suffered from cold, and was pinched by hunger. A reluctant consent was obtained from her father for her to attend the Ragged School; and clothes were provided. The next Sunday the child was at the Ragged School, and the following Tuesday she came to hear Nettie sing. The summer passed by, and the mellow autumn came and went. Little Hannah had been quite regular in her attendance at the Ragged School, never absent unless detained by her father. At first it was

very hard to interest this neglected child in religious truths, what she was taught she so quickly forgot; but as she was really bright, before long she began to improve. She never forgot to go to hear Nettie sing, and Nettie was always pleasant, and ready to gratify her. In return for her kindness, the child lavished upon her all the affection of her strong nature. No matter what else Nettie sang to please her, each time before leaving Hannah would say, "Now, please, sing '*Rock for me.*'"

It is not necessary to pursue the history of Hannah Bailey. My story has missed its aim if it has not already taught an important lesson. Those who possess personal advantages or accomplishments of any kind never taste so sweet a pleasure in their exercise as when employing them in gently winning the young, the ignorant, the neglected, or the vicious to the ways of godliness.

HOW RAGGED SCHOLARS SHOW THEIR GRATITUDE.

THERE is nothing more touching than the way in which the dumb creation shows its gratitude to its master. Verily, as the good old book intimates, "the ox knoweth his owner;" and every little act of kindness being burnt into the memory, is repaid with lasting affection. In this, as in many other respects, they furnish a good example to mankind; and well it would be for us if we were as grateful to our Divine Master as dumb animals are to theirs.

The question is often asked by those who know little of the real character of the class of which Ragged Schools are composed—Are not ragged scholars ungrateful to their benefactors? Notwithstanding instances to the contrary which critics are too fond of parading, as if none but the poor were ungrateful, we gladly affirm, from many years' labour among them, that the ragged class possess, and exhibit on all fitting, and sometimes on *un*-fitting, occasions, deep feelings of gratitude. Most *outré* are the modes whereby their affection is ofttimes displayed. Not rarely they will meet their favourite teachers some distance from the school, and pilot them safely through the "slums" and past the groups of dissolute men and degraded women who surround the gin-shops near Ragged Schools. Nor will they hesitate, ragged and uncouth though they be, to rush through the mud, to grasp the hand, or to cry out, "Good day, teacher." Ragged apparitions have, with bright eye and gleeful face, thus greeted ladies of distinction, when surrounded by Belgravian friends, in the parks of the West End. And here we may remark, to the honour of the criminal classes, that, however low the district where our schools are planted, the cases of robbery of teachers have been few; and equally rare has been the use of insulting language to those who thus seek for the social elevation of their children. For none more than they recognise the fact, even when no spiritual result has followed, that the teachers give money and time, not from a mere sense of duty, but from deep sympathy for the social and spiritual needs of their poorer brethren. As, then, hate is ever the parent of hate, so the love of the poor has been born of the love of the rich—to the moral benefit of both classes.

But sometimes their feeling of gratitude assumes a more tangible form. For example, whenever we have visited the Ragged Schools at Greenwich

Peckham, or Kensal Green in summer, we have found them decorated with wild flowers gathered by the scholars in adjacent commons, or rendered fragrant by the simple flowers which give grace to the cottager's garden. Thus, too, one of the voluntary teachers of Field Lane relates the tokens of gratitude recently presented by various members of her class :—

"They presented me with a book—'Tupper's Proverbial Philosophy'—in remembrance of the new year, telling me that they could not express in words what they really felt, not only to me as their teacher, but to the School in general, for the great kindness shown them in the time of need. I also received another present this year of a neat Reference Bible, from a member of my class. Another man brought me 2000 *tracts for distribution*."

Again, the children attending Bermondsey Railway Day School desired to present a token of gratitude to a friend who had endeavoured to promote their interests. Hearing from the teachers that his duties required much walking, they proposed to save their farthings, and buy him *a pair of boots!* On this somewhat original proposal being vetoed by the teacher, they saved their farthings, and gave him a white cambric handkerchief, neatly hemmed by the paid monitors. Thus, too, the scholars of Brent's Court recently presented the Rev. Dr. Allen, and an officer of the Ragged School Union, with neat mats for the study, which they had made of tailors' clippings.

Nor are our poor mothers less grateful to their benefactors than their children. From their first institution, we have regarded every Ragged School as imperfect which has not a mothers' meeting. For painful experience indicates, in a majority of cases, that unless our scholars are morally trained at home, much that is learnt in the Ragged School is unlearnt at home. It is no wonder then that the first Emperor Napoleon, who knew human nature so well, said that "what France wants is mothers." And so say we; reclaim the mothers, and the moral reform of their offspring will be easy. Hence we are glad to find that our fellow-labourers have recognised the great truth that the *future* of their scholars depends, to a great extent, upon their mothers. This has led them to gather those poor women, often worn out in mere youth, into classes, where they are taught how *not* to make the worst of this world. There are, we are glad to find, 83 of such meetings scattered through the length and breadth of London; the aggregate weekly attendance at which is 2,229. Taught not only how to "show piety at home," but having the Bible truth enforced that time is but the vestibule to eternity, the Holy Spirit has so blessed the means of grace employed, that above 150 are known to have acknowledged their trust in Jesus at the supper of the Lord. Many such meetings have we visited; and we have always rejoiced to see what a hold on the affections of these poor women is possessed by the Christian ladies who thus preside. Recently, tokens of gratitude have been presented to two of these ladies—true "sisters of mercy," though happily without either the vow or the name. Thus Mrs. Evans, who has conducted the Robert Street Mothers' Meeting from the commencement, was recently presented by the fifty members composing her class with a handsomely bound Bible. So Miss Butler, who superintends the

Brook Street Mothers' Meeting, was recently presented with a rosewood writing-desk, purchased by the forty-three females forming her class.

Facts like these—and did space permit they might be multiplied—prove that the outcry of critics that the poor, as a class, are ungrateful, is unfounded. That many of the poor are ungrateful is but to affirm that man is a fallen creature, and thus is liable to forget what is due to his benefactors—just, indeed, as the bulk of mankind, rich or poor, forget their obligations to that great Father who gives them all they possess. But as a class—and we should judge by the rule, and not the exceptions—we can testify from long experience that whenever kindness is spontaneous, and does not spring from that ostentatious patronage which only freezes the soul, none are more grateful than the forlorn ones among whom God has called us to labour. Hence we have every reason to pursue our labours without flagging, even on the lower ground of the gratitude evoked in those who, downcast and spiritless, were too often treated as social nuisances. For even when our primary object is not realized, and the soul is not regenerated by the Holy One, still it is something to give hope to those whose earthly lot, whether caused by their own vices, improvidence, or by enfeebled health, seems to be merely to suffer. Verily there is nothing like Christian love for taming the wild human soul, and so rendering it fit for this world and the next. For, as that great photographer of human nature Charles Dickens says, so long experience of our poorer brethren declares, "Man is better governed by the strong heart than by the strong, though immeasurably weaker, hand!"

EDINBURGH RAGGED SCHOOLS.

The Earl of Dalhousie presided in December at a meeting of what are designated "The Original Ragged Industrial Schools" in Edinburgh. The meeting was addressed by the noble Chairman, Lord Ardmillan, and the Rev. Dr. Duff. The following is an abstract of the report read on the occasion:—

"The directors, in submitting their annual report, contrast their present financial position with that which they occupied at the date of last year's report. At that time, not only was the working capital of the institution entirely exhausted, but the bank account was overdrawn to the extent of upwards of £300. While not one child—except those whose term had expired—has been dismissed from the Schools, and while these have been carried on in fullest efficiency, not only has the sum last year borrowed from the bank been repaid, but the funds in the bank at the credit of the institution now amount to upwards of £800. From the state of their funds, however, the directors have not been able to supply the places of those children who have left the Schools with other children who sought admission, and whom, had they been able, they would gladly have admitted. Their present comparatively favourable financial position is owing, not to an increased amount of contributions, but to several legacies which, during the year, have been received, and which amount to £1,239 5s. 8d. Indeed, the directors are concerned to find that the regular contributions are £460 8s. 8d. less than those of last year; and it is evident that, but for the supplement which

the funds have received from the source just referred to, the institution, instead of having £800 in the bank, would have been in debt to it to the extent of upwards of £400. In their last year's report, the directors expressed it as their opinion that the main and abiding source of revenue for the support of Ragged Industrial Schools, which can be most surely relied on, is not Acts of Parliament or minutes of Council, but the efforts of private liberality. This opinion (notwithstanding their conviction of the duty and the interest of Government to aid such institutions) they hold now more firmly than ever; and while they believe it to be sound as regards such Schools in general, they are convinced that it is specially so with respect to those constituted like the Original Ragged Industrial Schools, which have had from the beginning, and still have, as their fundamental principle, that the Word of God shall be openly and fully taught to every child within their walls. This characteristic, which is regarded by the great body of the people as the very glory of these Schools, nevertheless has operated, and will doubtless continue to operate, as a hindrance to their receiving more than a small percentage of the cases committed under the Industrial Schools' Act, for which payment is made by Government. Each succeeding year makes it only more and more apparent that the proportion of committed cases sent to schools constituted like theirs is, in Edinburgh at least, to be relatively very small; so their appeal on behalf of the Original Ragged Industrial Schools, to all those who approve of the principle on which they rest, becomes very greatly strengthened. For so many years now has the value of this institution been publicly recognised, that the directors feel it would be superfluous to do more than to point to the unchallengeable evidence of the value of this, and the other Ragged Industrial Schools of this city, furnished by the valuable returns of juvenile criminals, kindly provided from year to year by Mr. Smith, the experienced Governor of the Prison of Edinburgh, which show, in a manner truly gratifying, that the number of juveniles under fourteen years of age annually committed has been very greatly reduced from what it used to be before these schools were opened in 1847. A comparison of the returns for the last three years makes this abundantly evident. These returns are as follow:—For 1847, 315; 1848, 204; 1849, 165—being a total of 684. For 1861, 81; 1862, 52; 1863, 50—being a total of 183—being a reduction on the three years of 501, or an average annual reduction of 167. Again, while during the eleven intervening years the number of committals (as might have been expected) has fluctuated, the aggregate of these years, amounting to 817, shows the annual average of the committals to have been only 74 3-11ths. Or, to state the average of these three periods above referred to:—The annual average of the three years from 1847 to 1849, inclusive, is 228; the annual average of the eleven years from 1850 to 1860, inclusive, is 74 3-11ths; the annual average of the three years from 1861 to 1863, inclusive, is 61. In one word, while the proportion of juvenile criminals to the entire number of criminals was in 1847 5.6 per cent., in the year 1863 that proportion was only 0.9 per cent. As a natural corollary to the above, it may be added that while from the Ramsay Lane Branch of the Institution, opened in 1847, 686 inmates, and from the Marionville Branch, opened in 1858, 87 inmates (773 in all), have entered on various spheres of usefulness, the directors are able to assert without fear of contradiction that the great

majority of these are useful and respectable members of society, and not a few of them eminently so. Besides these, there is a large number of those who in former years were inmates of the Schools—who did not pass direct from them to their respective situations—and who are known to be doing well in the world. The directors have been much gratified by the kindness of Dr. Cumming of Kinnellan, who last summer bought tickets to the baths in Pitt Street for sixteen of the bigger boys at the Schools, and at his own expense made arrangements for their being taught to swim. This benevolent enterprise was entirely successful, for not only was the admission to the baths a great treat to the boys, but it resulted in all of them becoming good swimmers. At the close of the season Dr. Cumming gave a great many handsome prizes to the most expert, and eleven of these prizes were won by the boys of these Schools. The directors have much pleasure in bearing testimony to the very efficient co-operation they continue to receive in the management of the Schools from the Ladies' Committee. The directors, towards the conclusion of their report, quote the following remarks of the Rev. Sydney Turner, her Majesty's Inspector of Industrial Schools, entered in the books at his visit on the 19th September last. Of the Boys' School he says:—'Inspected the Schools. The boys have made great progress, and show a very satisfactory amount of intelligence.' Of the Infants' School he says:—'I regret to find that, in consequence of the want of funds, the number of children in this most useful department of the School has been considerably decreased.'"

PRINCIPLES OF ACTIONS IN THE EARLY TRAINING OF CHILDREN.

In the following letter of an able and accomplished correspondent of the *Times* there are so many valuable suggestions on the right training of children, and which are so likely to aid our teachers and friends, that we make no apology for giving the letter entire as it appeared in the *Times* of January 10th last. The writer, doubtless, contemplated a class different from that in Ragged Schools—children of a higher social status, but still children of the same human family, having in common similar interests and feelings, and capable of receiving the same moral and religious impressions. With certain modifications, the same principles of action should be adopted for the early training of children of every class.

The writer, under the heading of "Education of Children," proceeds to say to the public through the columns of the leading journal:—

Sir,—In a former letter on the above subject I touched chiefly upon things to be guarded against—on evils in the early management of young children which by prudent care could be avoided. The kind and flattering way in which the advice I gave has been received in quarters entitled to my highest respect induces me to follow up the subject, by endeavouring to point out certain principles of action which I think important, as leading to that result we all desire—an early training of children in the way they should go.

In every child born in healthy condition there is a moral life capable of developing certain moral emotions, as there

is also, in combination with it, a physical life formed for the future development of certain physical powers. Sight, touch, hearing, taste, the power of utterance, are in the early days of life in a condition in which each separate faculty only exists in certain machinery, itself as yet in a very partial condition of development; the will and power to apply the mechanism of our senses have yet to be put forth, to be called into action, by the succeeding necessities of advancing life. As the exigencies and attractions of the world around the child make calls upon the use of these senses, as yet in a very passive state, they will answer to the call, and increase in power as they are submitted to increased exercise. These, the forces by which the mind is to act and be acted on, if not early abused, will quite keep pace with any demand the mind may make upon them.

How pleased are the nurse and the mother when the infant evinces the first symptoms of what is called "taking notice!" The hammering the bottom of the snuffer-tray with the back of the snuffers was the process in the olden time by which this, the first exercise of pleased attention to sound, was usually discovered. Cheering to the ear of an orator is the sound of the applause which welcomes the appeals of his eloquence; scarcely less so that felt silence of the audience which will at times offer a tribute to his power in an attention which seems almost to suspend the very breath. Here, after all, is only the development of that sense of attention in the speaker and the audience which, perhaps, in early life was first shown as pleasingly excited by the snuffers-and-tray music of the nursery.

An infant will take to its food from the first; this may be called instinct. It is some time before it acquires that discrimination of taste which makes one food more pleasant than another. A great authority has laid it down that early knavery and early sense of taste are often traceable to that very early period when certain infant troubles are cured by the administration of brown sugar; it is said the little animal feigns the hiccough to obtain the sweet taste of the antidote. So, again, with the sense of touch, and that use of sight which, combining with it, gives power to guide the hand to feel some object it seeks to reach. For some considerable time it is doubtful whether any *understood* sensation follows the early efforts to reach and touch the things to which the infant puts out its hand; by degrees eye and hand act together, and although the result may be simply the childish glee, that half wondering expression of countenance, which accompanies the successful poking of a finger into the eye of a little sister, yet even this is proof that the great business of preparation for active human life has commenced—the eye directs, the brain wills, the hand obeys.

I hold it to be true, and to be a truth deserving all attention, that a child is born to love; it has to learn to fear. I argue, therefore, that we should in the very early stages of their existence seek, by looks of love, by gentle tones, to lead our children to yield to our wishes, rather than by a harsh tone and frowning aspect try to terrify them into obedience. It is very questionable in what way they feel the fear we thus try to produce—whether we do not act prematurely on a sense scarcely as yet developed, and simply confuse and annoy with no good result,—whereas we do know that at the earliest moment of any exercise of reasoning power a child does answer to the tone and look of affection with the smile which indicates its return, and by sounds which show pleasure. We are apt to laugh at the nonsense of the nursery dialect, that utterance of perverted English with lisping accent which, by common usage, is supposed to be best suited to the comprehension of a small child; it is only, after its fashion, a lesson from the book of nature. If we watch Juno with her puppy family, we shall see that when they tease her into utterance, or please her into it, with their fondling play, she has a very modified growl of reproof to

repress whelpine excess, and a soft whine of affectionate encouragement in return for proper exhibition of whelpine affection, very different from the out-growled menace or the out-barked applause with which she greets or menaces the more advanced in life of her species. It is the tone and look combined which makes the nonsense uttered to children attractive to them. Sense and nonsense are to them otherwise much alike. We do not in using it make fools of ourselves; on the contrary, we show wisdom by this attempt to become as children, that children may understand us after their own fashion. We give a rag doll of bright colours, hideous and unshapely; the child likes it for its bright hues; it may or may not see in it a caricature of its own species; the waxen, curly-headed, well-clad Dolla, so prized by Miss in walking boots, would be a meaningless thing to Miss scarcely out of socks.

The two cardinal virtues of nursery life are obedience and love. These are the rudiments of life's moral grammar, and in them should all human life be very early well grounded. Obedience should be won from a child by evidence given to it which it can comprehend of the pleasure it thus affords to those it loves, of the pain its self-will gives them. It will then give more willing obedience, just in proportion to the love it has for those who ask it. There can be no doubt that to win the affectionate confidence of a young child we must stoop to enter into the joys and sorrows which directly affect its, at present, small sphere of life. The *pater* or *mater familias* who, as the unthinking say, play the fool to a child three or four years of age, accommodating themselves to its small follies and caprices, becoming for the occasion as children to gain more readily the child's love, in my opinion, act a rational part. Going for a season into childland, they are no more to be ridiculed than the traveller who tries to win the confidence of the natives of a land strange to him by doing his best to join in their pursuits and make their language his own. He may do it imperfectly, grotesquely, if you will; but in the attempt they see and accept the endeavour to give them pleasure.

I can remember seeing a statesman, who for a short time was Premier, whose ordinary life was given up to the study of all the mysteries of national finance, who was one of the most confirmed red-tapists I ever knew, to please his child, made, willingly enough, to go on all fours about the room, covered from the nape of the neck to the extreme spinal boundary with his wife's shawl. What animal he was meant to represent I know not; but this I know, that his own laughter was as loud and thoroughly natural as that of his child; in after years, and not many of them, that child was lost to him, loving him dearly to the last; I have no doubt that among the recollections of that short life that man of serious, thoughtful character, of whom the public thought as drawing his every inspiration from Blue-books, cherished above all the memory of those seasons when Downing-street and its lore had been so heartily set aside, and he, the statesman, had become as a child to please one.

I may be told it is confessedly easy to win a child's love by becoming after a sort its playfellow, but it is not so easy to bring the love thus won to bear upon its will by the occasional withholding of it, to gain some point of conduct to which the child is opposed. I admit the difficulty, but I think it quite capable of being overcome. By alternations of pleasure and pain a child has to teach itself a great deal, which no one else could teach; the pain from falling is the check to too early indulgence in the wish to stand; a burnt child does dread fire, but it does not forsake the warmth of the fireside, although it will fear to touch a fender which, having been touched, had given it pain. Children study countenances before they study, with equal observation, anything else. Take a very young child into a toy-shop; the chances are it will still look up more to your face than it will look at

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The two cardinal virtues of nursery life are obedience and love. These are the rudiments of life's moral grammar, and in them should all human life be very early well grounded. Obedience should be won from a child by evidence given to it which it can comprehend of the pleasure it thus affords to those it loves, of the pain its self-will gives them. It will then give more willing obedience, just in proportion to the love it has for those who ask it. There can be no doubt that to win the affectionate confidence of a young child we must stoop to enter into the joys and sorrows which directly affect its, at present, small sphere of life. The *pater* or *mater familias* who, as the unthinking say, play the fool to a child three or four years of age, accommodating themselves to its small follies and caprices, becoming for the occasion as children to gain more readily the child's love, in my opinion, act a rational part. Going for a season into childland, they are no more to be ridiculed than the traveller who tries to win the confidence of the natives of a land strange to him by doing his best to join in their pursuits and make their language his own. He may do it imperfectly, grotesquely, if you will; but in the attempt they see and accept the endeavour to give them pleasure.

I can remember seeing a statesman, who for a short time was Premier, whose ordinary life was given up to the study of all the mysteries of national finance, who was one of the most confirmed red-tapists I ever knew, to please his child, made, willingly enough, to go on all fours about the room, covered from the nape of the neck to the extreme spinal boundary with his wife's shawl. What animal he was meant to represent I know not; but this I know, that his own laughter was as loud and thoroughly natural as that of his child; in after years, and not many of them, that child was lost to him, loving him dearly to the last; I have no doubt that among the recollections of that short life that man of serious, thoughtful character, of whom the public thought as drawing his every inspiration from Blue-books, cherished above all the memory of those seasons when Downing-street and its lore had been so heartily set aside, and he, the statesman, had become as a child to please one.

I may be told it is confessedly easy to win a child's love by becoming after a sort its playfellow, but it is not so easy to bring the love thus won to bear upon its will by the occasional withholding of it, to gain some point of conduct to which the child is opposed. I admit the difficulty, but I think it quite capable of being overcome. By alternations of pleasure and pain a child has to teach itself a great deal, which no one else could teach; the pain from falling is the check to too early indulgence in the wish to stand; a burnt child does dread fire, but it does not forsake the warmth of the fireside, although it will fear to touch a fender which, having been touched, had given it pain. Children study countenances before they study, with equal observation, anything else. Take a very young child into a toy-shop; the chances are it will still look up more to your face than it will look at

the nursery wealth which surrounds it; it has learnt to love face, kind mother, it has yet to learn the charm of toys; this latter is an acquired taste; natural instinct, all early association, has given to your countenance its change from grave to gay, its speaking smiles, or its look of pain, a sense and meaning, which at present is as omnipotent as anything can be over that ever-changing thing, a child's mind.

I assert, then, that you can play into a child's confidence so as to ensure pleasure to it from your looks of pleasure, pain to it when your face tells of pain. In the early days of its life's journey thus leading it by the light and checking it by the cloud, seen where it loves best to look.

A time must come—and all a mother's judgment is needed to determine when it has come—when advancing reason will ally itself to that growing spirit of independence which is a part of our nature,—well trained, the basis of life's success; ill regulated, the bane. Little duties are heavy laws on little folk; things are to be done which are distasteful, others left undone which are very pleasant to a child. Too young to understand the wherefore of a command, as yet untaught in any severe penalty following on disobedience, we must expect rebellion; but let us not forget what is yet due to the ignorance of the little rebel. To be angry with a child of tender years because it cannot see as we see is folly. No less foolish is it to expect to convince it of evil before it has yet learnt to distinguish what makes right or wrong. I believe the sound principle is ever to claim obedience to the parent as a duty not to be questioned, and never to yield for one moment that position of command which should reign all-powerful to the age when advanced reason can be taught that parents govern children on principles derived from authority by which they themselves are governed.

We must punish; the discretion with which we do it will greatly govern the amount which will be necessary. It should ever be a work seen to be one of sorrow; it should never be done hastily or angrily. The dispositions of children vary greatly. Their sensitiveness to shame or pain do not vary more than do their dispositions to break out into degrees of open rebellion, or to offer a more or less sullen and more determined exhibition of self-will. As is the disease so should the remedy be adapted to it; there are children so constitutionally violent, that they are easily made defiant of all the ordinary means of punishment; there are some so sensitive, and yet so self-willed, that although they need strong control, what would be as a feather against others is to them as the rending of their little hearts; others are there of that strange sullen temper which seems deaf to all reproof, as it is proof against the effect of any mere bodily pain. To treat all alike is as foolish as cruel—the character of each has to be studied, and the symptoms of the individual firmly dealt with according to that prudent judgment which may best apply itself to their particular features.

There are those who say that a parent should never let a child gain the mastery for an hour; I say there are children, with whom to contend at the time, beyond a certain limit, is only to do them physical harm and to gain no real moral advantage; it is better to let them see you retire with sorrow from the contest, to leave them for awhile to the disturbance of their better nature, and watch the moment when the storm has passed to win them to a sense of shame at their defiance of your authority, their affront to your love. Then, to let the punishment be one which they shall see painful to yourself as to them—such as the withdrawing from them for a time some of the evidence of your affectionate care for their pleasures; thus many a little proud, violent heart may be tamed to an obedience that no rod could have commanded. Nature dealing with the child makes bodily pain a part of the discipline by which it is made careful in the use of its bodily powers. A broken nose from a fall on the nursery floor seems a hard measure dealt to the weakness of the

child who chose to try and walk before it had scarcely learned to stand, and yet that bruising of the face will have taught a caution which may save it a worse fall from a too adventurous use of its early powers of locomotion. I would follow nature thus far; I would far rather make the flesh smart for a moment than seek to terrify the mind by a prolonged punishment of some other character, directed solely to affect some inward sense. The smart of the rod speaks to the occasion, and then is silent; solitude in the corner, with enforced silence, too long prolonged, breeds but too often a sullen temper; the dark closet begets a state of mind often sorely afflicting the criminal long after the crime has been pardoned and forgotten.

In my opinion, with children, at least up to three or four years of age, toys, those bones of nursery contention, should be the property of the nursery commonwealth. As such they may be made instrumental in the production of harmony, whereas if they are the property of individuals they are sure to beget discord at this early age. I think we err greatly in expecting the exercise of those virtues which proceed from a sense that property has its duties as well as its rights. To give a sense of possession, to the exclusion of all others, even in a toy, is to me questionable, when it is, from the age of the possessor, only likely to beget selfishness; the toy is coveted and cried for, perhaps attempts are made to take it by a still younger child, who is then punished or scolded for his larcenious disposition; the proprietor is thus often made selfish on a principle he cannot understand; his brother made angry, still left covetous, by a process equally unintelligible to him. Once establish an amiable feeling among all the members of the nursedom by a judicious use of a few toys in common, and you have gained a great step towards the amiable use of this kind of property, when the time comes for each having his own to deal with as he will. And here let me say it is not wise to be very liberal in toys; the gifts, often repeated, of these artificial contrivances for the production of childish pleasure are too apt to create an unhealthy appetite for artificial amusement; they contract the powers of observation within an area in which little is real or useful; the old-fashioned wooden bricks encourage thought, the building which tumbles down gives impulse to contrivance to make it stand; the generality of toys for the very young are good of their kind if used with moderation; they help out the child's long days, but they should aid his efforts to find his own amusement, not supplant them.

The habit of kind relations of for ever giving toys is not, however, so hurtful as that detestable habit of seeking to please children by for ever giving them things to gratify simply the sense of taste. The lump of sugar after the dose is excusable enough; it has a specific purpose to fulfil, in which it would fail did it not please by its taste; but this is no justification of that foolish custom which makes a bun or an orange the reward of virtue, but too often the bribe to cease rebellion. I admit that there is too much reason to believe that by nature we have a very strong predisposition toward confectionery, as we have also a certain amount of pleasure in destruction; we do not, however, encourage children to wantonly smash toys or cruelly put their fingers out to maim flies. It seems to me that in the matter of sugar, and all things to which it is an accompaniment or in which it is an element, we make it a sort of "Child's Guide" to pleasure. I believe we thus not only create a depraved taste, making children averse to really wholesome food, with "the sweet" in proper amount, but we pervert the sense of taste, and, by its abuse, make it morally injurious. I always think it a poor compliment to the children and their parents when those they visit at once storm them with cake.

With these hints on the discipline of a nursery, I would at once end my task—one, I confess, I think any prudent mother of experience would have far

better performed; but I know I shall be accused of having evaded the most important topic—the religious teaching. It is with some reluctance I proceed to give a few opinions in this direction, for I fear my view will not be a popular one. Our great Divine Example and Teacher invited young children to come to him, lifted them, blessed them. I do not read anywhere that he expected great religious knowledge from them; but I do read that he commanded *all* to become, in matters of faith, as a little child. I cannot believe that he ever meant that very young children should have his religion ever before them as a hard lesson. My own view is this,—children's first feelings of reverence should be obtained as towards the earthly parents; as early as may be it should be instilled into their minds that these parents, to them so wise and powerful—and it is to be hoped good—daily serve and pray to an unseen Power, infinitely wiser, more powerful, and better than themselves. Invitation may then cautiously be given to the child to kneel as its parents kneel, and to offer some very short, most simple, prayer to God—the Being the parents worship. The child's prayer should be strictly childish—a simple request for blessing on itself and those it loves. By degrees, and only so, should a pious mother give more and more light as to the duty of prayer and the reverence it demands, unfolding gradually the connection of man with his Maker, thus lifting the love and the principle of obedience in the child beyond the seen to the unseen Parent—not diminishing it as regards the former, but showing that this carries out the law of the latter. With equal caution—not as a hard lesson, but as one reverently and wisely given, and in all possible simplicity of language—the child may have such points of the Redeemer's history impressed upon it as are the most likely to arrest its attention, avoiding that which, from its age, it cannot anywise comprehend, displaying all—and how much is there?—it may well love to learn. I would ever avoid at this early age all religious teaching, which, becoming wearisome as a mere lesson, is likely to set the heart against it as such. I would never seek to terrify by dwelling on these features of revelation, which, to a mere child, must be full of dread; just tasting life, every physical and moral agency as yet scarce breaking through life's soil, I would not bring up the grave and judgment to awe and to perplex, where from the same book in which both are written there is child's food far more congenial and appropriate to a child's understanding.

Obtain reverence for the Unseen, fortified by your example as well as by your teaching; tell of the beauty and love and mercy of the Redeemer, as shown in the passages you select from his life; teach these holy things with reverence as if yourself felt them. A very young child will soon own their influence; you will have prepared the soil for seed requiring greater strength in it; the deeper mysteries of our common faith, the fuller after teaching direct from the Scripture lessons, will be the more efficient for good, in that they have not been taught until the child's heart has been won to Him from whose blessing on them all our hope depends.

S. G. O.

Jan. 5.

EMPLOYMENT FOR VAGRANT BOYS.

THE following is extracted from the *New York Evening Post* of November 15, 1864:—

"In a recent official report it is asserted that, 'though the number of children truant from school in this city is large (more than 5,000 during the year), and the practice a mischief calling for remedial measures, a much

more extensive evil is found in the fact that vast numbers of children of both sexes do not attend school at all. They have no employment, are under no wholesome constraint of parental authority, and have no respect for the laws intended to preserve public order and protect private right. Many of these are sent out by their parents to beg, and not a few to steal: They roam the streets, docks, and vacant grounds in gangs, depredating upon unprotected property, stoning quiet people and each other, playing rude games for pennies, and holding miniature prize-fights; they are growing up in ignorance, and travelling the road of vice and crime. Numbers become thieves, burglars, and robbers before they become men.'

"Most of these boys would be glad to go to sea, if they had a chance. But a boy of this class, or of any other for that matter, under our present practice, might as well expect to get into Congress as to get a berth on board ship. We need sailors, but we take no care to educate boys for the sea. There is no place in American ships for boys; they are not wanted; they are not engaged; captains and mates tell you, 'boys are troublesome; you have to show them everything, and when they become of use they leave you.' Let a boy want ever so much to go to sea, unless he has extraordinary influences in his favour—unless, that is to say, he does not need to follow the sea at all as a profession—he will not get an opportunity in an American ship.

"Congress should pass an Apprentice Act, requiring every ship above a certain tonnage to carry a certain number of boys, varying according to the size of the ship and the number of her adult crew. Of course the boys take the place of able-bodied men, in the proportion of three boys to two men; and thus the owner saves somewhat in wages.

"Such an Apprentice Act ought to be carefully drawn, so as to guard the rights of boys, who should be taught seamanship and navigation, should have kind treatment, and should be secured their wages, clothing, and proper treatment at the hands of officers and men. On the other hand, the owner ought to be guaranteed his right to the services of his indentured apprentices as long as he does his duty to them; and proper penalties should prevent other masters from employing a runaway apprentice.

"If we had such a law there would be an immediate demand for boys in the merchant service, which would be filled to a certain extent from amongst our street boys, who, washed and put in clean clothes, well fed, rope's-ended into polite behaviour, and taught a profession which will always charm boys, would be turned into useful citizens, whereas they are now growing up, in the language of the report we have quoted above, to be criminals before they are men."

"THE CHILDREN'S FRIEND."

In the number of "The Children's Friend" for this month (February), is a pair of pictures marking the contrast of the same boy—"A day before entering the Ragged School," and "Six months after." This publication is one of the best published.

In Memoriam.

ROBERT RANSOME, Esq., IPSWICH.

With much regret we record the death of Mr. Robert Ransome, which took place on Sunday evening, November 6th, at St. Goar, on the Rhine, after only a few days' illness. He left home in good health in October, on a continental tour; and having visited the principal cities of Belgium, reached St. Goar. Here he became unwell, and had a stroke of paralysis, which proved fatal.

The Industrial Ragged Schools of Ipswich have in the death of this estimable gentleman lost one of their best friends and most liberal supporters. He was among the first supporters—if not the first promoter—of those Schools, and continued their active advocate and friend to the close of life.

Mr. Ransome was the head of the firm of [Ransomes and Sims, the proprietors of the colossal Orwell Works. He began his career at the age of fourteen as an apprentice. At twenty-three he entered into partnership with his father and brother; and success attended their efforts, as may be gathered by seeing their implements of husbandry in nearly every agricultural district of Europe. For the last few years Mr. Ransome has been gradually withdrawing from the all-engrossing occupations of so large a business.

From Mr. Ransome's success in business we gladly turn to his character as a citizen, philanthropist, and Christian; and here we have an example which may be held up for imitation in every sphere of usefulness. His loss to his family is great and irreparable; his immediate connections will miss a confiding and attached friend; the hundreds of *employés* at the Orwell Works will lose a kind-hearted and sympathizing employer; and the town in which he was born, and in whose varied interests he had spent an active, well-directed, and well-sustained life, will feel a blank it will be very difficult to fill up. Almost every tongue is vocal with reminiscences of his past acts of kindness, of the goodness of his heart, and the purity of his life. Warm as are the encomiums passed upon the deceased gentleman, they are no more than his fine, upright, and well-regulated course of life deserves. No one was, probably, better known in Ipswich; and never perhaps has more general and sincere regret been felt at the loss of a citizen than is now experienced at his unexpected decease. He was a large-hearted, liberal-minded man, and fortunately his means were affluent; and thus he often made himself and others happy by contributing to the wants of the poor. He was a member of the Society of Friends—was as gentle in demeanour as he was mild and serene in temper. There was nothing of the sectary about him. He enjoyed his own religious opinions, and left for others the same liberty as he claimed for himself. If they agreed with him, there was the right hand of friend-

ship and a word of kindly recognition—if they differed, they met the same reception. He was consistent himself, and believed in everybody else's conscientiousness. In this respect he was a model man. Exclusive as the principles of the Society of Friends may appear to some, his large-hearted sympathy embraced almost every religious and philanthropic object which had its origin in, or connection with, Ipswich. It would be less difficult to say what he did not assist than to say what he did. Scarcely a subscription list but bears his name. And as to local institutions and movements for the elevation of the working classes, they all had either his direct personal assistance by advocacy, or less prominent support from his purse: in not a few cases both. He took a good deal of pride in his own mass of workmen; and judging their fellows by them, he missed no opportunity, when it could be done with appropriateness, to dwell upon their virtues and honest worth. The Bible Society found in him a warm-hearted and constant friend. He was a vice-president of the Mechanics' Institution and Working Men's College. The St. Helen's and St. Clement's Working Men's Club loses a sympathizing friend. The East Suffolk Hospital also had a share of his attention, he being one of the committee of management. Of the Temperance Society he was an attached member; and the Early Closing Movement found in him a ready advocate. He was a member of the Dock Commission, being the only public corporate body in which he took a part. The proposal to establish the Albert Middle-Class College at once elicited his support, and at his death he was one of the governors. And, as we have already said, he took a deep and personal interest in the Ragged School, which was reciprocated, as far as their discernment allowed, by the children, in their deportment in his presence.

The Teachers' Column.

HOW TO WIN A CHILD'S HEART.

THE heart of a child is easily won. It needs no besieging, no formidable preparation for a grand assault, no advancing by regular approaches. You have only to go in the name of love and demand a surrender; and without parleying the prize is yours.

"Love begets love." Anger and hate beget anger and hate. Smiles are like musical voices amid the hills, which come back to those that utter them with all their original sweetness.

Did you ever smile on a child without receiving an answering smile? On the contrary, when you have looked down coldly, perhaps with a frown, into the eyes of a child, have you not seen the reflection of your manner and expression in the mirror-like face of the little one?

Love children, and they will love you. Let children feel that you care for them—that you are interested in all that interests them, that you sympathize with them in all their little sorrows, and rejoice with them in all their little joys, and that you are their true and unselfish friend; and in those feelings you have the key to their hearts.

One word for you, dear teachers. You want to be loved by your scholars. Then love your scholars. If you do love them it will not be necessary for you to say so, in order that they may be conscious of the fact. Children read hearts intuitively.

They read your affection for them in every line of your face, in your moistened eye, in your unforced smile. They hear the declaration of it in every tone of your voice. They have the assurance of it in your manner—in your actions which "speak louder than words."

Happy are ye who have the love of the little ones under your care. It is a fountain of no common joy to your own heart, and it gives you an influence over them, which can be obtained in no other way. Thus you may win those dear young hearts to Jesus. God help you to do it!

The Children's Gallery.

A NEWSBOY'S FUNERAL.

One of the most touching ceremonials I ever witnessed, took place in Brooklyn last Sunday. While the grand funeral procession, with slow and mournful step, and wailing music, was following down Broadway the remains of one over whom a nation was weeping—the first martyr of our revolution, Colonel Ellsworth—another coffin was being followed, with many tears, by little children and poor boys in the city of Brooklyn.

The ceremony was the funeral of a *newsboy*—a Christian lad who, as he scarce had a settled home, was kindly allowed to be buried from the State Street Congregational Church.

A homeless, poor boy, with no father or mother or sister to weep over the dead body—and yet with a great audience of children and newsboys and friends filling the church, and shedding many a tear. Unknown hands dropped tender white flowers on the little coffin, and sobs sounded in the stillness, as the newsboys, with voices hoarse with feeling, sang—

"There's a rest for the weary—
A rest for thee."

And as the simple exercise went on, and friend after friend arose, and spoke of the heroic, noble qualities of the little fellow, and of all he had done and suffered and accomplished, we, who had known him best, felt that we did not half value him. Most of all, when the doctor—whom, of course, much more than preachers or friends, all believe—stood up, and with words almost broken with emotion, said, "That was the noblest little soul I ever saw in any human body," and told the story of his sickness and fortitude, and we all felt the greatness of the loss.

But perhaps, for the children's sake, I had better give a short sketch of the newsboy's life—Johnny Morrow, as he is called and known to so many thousands. About seven years ago, a pale, sweet-faced little fellow, of say ten or eleven years of age, came to the Lodging-house and made his home there. He said he had no father or mother, and he earned his living by selling matches. Accordingly, the boys soon christened him "Matches."

One night, after some religious remarks made by Mr. Tracy, little Johnny came to him looking quite troubled. "What is it Johnny?" "Please, sir, I have been telling you a wrong story. I was afraid you would send me back to my father, for I have got a father. I am very sorry for telling you a lie." He then told how his father drank brandy continually, and sent him and his little brothers out to steal coal and wood and vegetables—and if they did not bring home much, he would beat them dreadfully—and how they often slept in carts and boxes to get out of his way—and how he had "brandy fits," and would try to kill his children. One night they slept on board a ferry-boat, and were fed by the ferry-man. Another time they were chased by some rag-pickers' dogs, while they were stealing, and nearly hunted down by them; until at last he felt he could bear this no longer, and went to the Lodging-

house for a home and shelter. Mr. Tracy forgave him his lie, and helped him. Johnny soon succeeded; he went to Sunday School, and night school, learned to read and write rapidly, and showed great fondness for the Bible—many thought then he was truly a religious boy. After a while he obtained a place to lodge in the Union Theological Seminary, where he peddled his little wares, and worked away at his education, with the hope of one day being a missionary —or a preacher to just the same poor people to whom he had belonged. The students all liked his happy little face, and he delighted in discussing abstruse theological questions with them, or in the more practical enjoyment of making a good bargain with them. One of the hard questions he put at this time, a result of his former experiences, was, "Which is a greater sin, to lie or to steal?" the question having occurred on account of his having lied to his father to prevent his making him steal!

At length he went to the New Haven Theological Seminary, not so much because of its theology, as because he hoped there to get some assistance, and to sell his little matters. His education, in every way, was going on well, and finally he completed his success by writing a little biography of himself, detailing the events of his chequered life, which he sold over the country. Probably, thousands of my little readers have seen or heard of Johnny Morrow's little book. With its proceeds he supported, a part of the time, his two younger brothers, and paid off nearly 300 dols.-worth of debts he had incurred in getting his education. He was always doing kind things with his money. We knew of his giving 23 dols. to a poor boy to start him in a trade; and under his pillow, at his death, was found a pocket-book with only a few pennies of his own, but with a receipt from a poor newsboy for 3 dols., which he had lately loaned to help to begin in business! If we *could* carry anything into the next world, who would not rather take that little dirty receipt with him than all the bank-bills of New York city? For was it not something done "to the least of these"?

Little Johnny had always been lame; and now, finding he was growing ill, and that a very painful operation ought to be performed on him, he paid all his debts, and went over and put himself in the hands of certain physicians in Brooklyn, I believe, paying his board himself.

Dr. Sayres had taken a deep interest in him, and came over to visit him. He says he never saw such perfect serenity, and trust, and courage—and every one felt his Christian faith. Before the operation was performed, he requested that it might be very thorough, and, if possible, that his deformity might be cured. They gave him chloroform, and after the terrible operation, when he was sufficiently recovered, he asked if he should be lame still. They replied that he would be, probably. "Well," he said, his natural cheerfulness running over, though his body was yet quivering with the surgeon's knife, "'taint so bad, after all, for now, when I want, I can limp, and pass for half-price on the railroad, or I can stretch up and be a big man!"

All noticed, everywhere, this beautiful cheerfulness of this poor lame boy. "It was," said the Rev. Mr. Bartlett, with exquisite pathos, "as if one of God's little angel's was always with him, singing cheerfully to him, saying, 'Limp a little longer, Johnny! It will soon be over!'"

Yes, all through these weary days of sickness the angel sang to him. It told him that poverty and homelessness and the world's cold charity, and pain and grief and deformity, would soon be past; and the eyes of the deformed, sick, homeless lad shone with a strange and quiet joy, which the bystanders could hardly understand.

"I do not fear to die," he said. "I feel all ready. I trust in Christ." He was doing well, and would probably have recovered, but for the very self-reliance which had secured him his success. He thought he would save the kind doctor the trouble of binding up his bandages, and that he could do it equally well, and one

morning undid them, and attempted to clean the sore, when, accidentally, he opened the wound, and almost bled to death before help could arrive. This was too much for his weakened frame, and in a short time he died.

Such was the story we heard at the funeral of the Christian newsboy. The rough boys came and gazed solemnly at the pale, worn face of the dead; the children of the rich and happy looked at him tearfully; and we all felt a kind of joyful sadness as we stood by.

Peace be with thee, little wanderer! Thy days of weariness, thy sickness and poverty and loneliness, are all over. Thou didst well thy little part on the earth! The poor and the unbefriended love thee. Thou hast died with an immortal faith and love. Heaven's gentle angels, that ever watch by the dying bedsides of penitent and loving children, hold thee up. Thou hast all wealth and glory now. Why should we weep for thee?

A more heroic life or a more Christian death we cannot wish for our beloved ones.

THE LITTLE MATCH GIRL.

"Buy some matches, ma'am? *Please*, buy some matches?"

As little Betty Green speaks these words, she looks up, half anxiously, half pleadingly, at the gentle face which bends above her. She has walked about ever since early morning, with her basket on her arm; and many a passer-by has heard the same timid appeal, "Buy some matches to-day?"

"I want to go home, but I must not, I cannot," you might hear her whisper to herself. "There is no coal nor food there; mother is sick, and I must get something. If I had only a few pennies! but nobody has given me even one."

As she speaks she sees coming towards her a lady young and fair. The warm cloak, the soft fur, the tasteful dress, tell of comfort, if not of wealth. But neither dress nor bonnet attracts poor Betty's attention so much as the kind, pleasing face which is turned towards her, listening to her appeal. Even the dog by her side, dumb animal though he be, looks up with a confident air to his mistress's smile; and, if he could speak to Betty, he would say, "You have judged rightly; my mistress will help you!"

"Buy some matches? Will you *please* buy some of my matches?" asks Betty with trembling lips.

"How much are your matches?" replies a voice so musical that the child's heart responds to it with a glad throb.

"These are a penny a box, ma'am. But *these*," holding up a round box gaily coloured, "are a better kind. They are German matches. I sell them five boxes for sixpence."

As the lady gathers up several in her hand, she turns to her sister, saying, "Here, Jennie, help me carry these." Then, putting the bright silver into Betty's trembling fingers, she asks, "Have you sold much to-day?"

"No, ma'am; you are the first one who has bought anything of me."

"Are you not tired and cold?" rejoins the new friend.

"Yes, ma'am; I thought I would go home, but I could not."

"Why could you not?"

"O ma'am, I could not have seen the look of the children, nor heard mother's feeble voice asking me how much I had brought her. The children would have been so hungry. But I can get them something now, since you have been so kind to me."

"Your mother is sick, then?"

"Yes, ma'am; she can do nothing for us now, though she worked hard for us when she was well. It makes me feel so sorry to see her lie in bed, sick and worried for us. It is very little I can do to help the rest. Sometimes I feel as if I could steal, only——"

"Only what? Do not be afraid to tell me."

"Because, ma'am, I learned at Sabbath School how wrong that would be; and I

could not meet my teacher's eye when I knew that I had been stealing. I could not dare to pray either."

"You go to a Sunday School, then? And you love to pray?"

"Oh, I love dearly to go to the Ragged School—I have learned so much there. I learned to love to pray there; and I don't know what I should do if I could not pray. I have a Bible of my own, too, which was given me by our Superintendent last New Year's Day. I read from it to mother, and she says the words are sweet to her."

"Well, my child, I am glad to hear all this, and I am glad that I met you to-day; I shall see you again some time. Be honest always, because it is right. You may be sure of one thing. As long as you obey the voice of your conscience, and do what you can, help will come to you. God, who cares for the sparrows, if you look to him, will surely care for you."

The kind lady's form disappears at length, but her sympathizing words linger cheeringly in Betty's mind. The money which the child has received will help the suffering ones at home, and Betty no longer dreads to meet her mother's question, or the children's hungry cries.

Learn a lesson here, young friend. As you walk up and down, you will often see the suffering children of poverty, who are trying honestly to provide for pressing wants. Help them if you can. Or, if you cannot buy anything, at least say "No" with a kind voice and look. Their clothes may be faded and torn, while you may be dressed in costly garments; but the same God made you both. They are his children as well as you.

Notices of Meetings.

NORTH LONDON INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION. DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES.

THE distribution of the prizes awarded at the close of the recent Industrial Exhibition for North London took place in Exeter Hall, on Monday, January 16th, 1865. The building was crowded with a most respectable assemblage of the working classes, and the best order was maintained throughout the proceedings.

The chair was taken by the Earl of Shaftesbury, and the proceedings were opened with a selection of music. The noble Chairman called upon the Secretary of the Ragged School Union, Mr. Gent, to commence the evening's proceedings with prayer; which when offered, he called upon Mr. Smithers, the editor of the "British Workman," S. Morley, Esq., and J. Payne, Esq., to address the meeting; after which the prizes were distributed, consisting of certificates beautifully framed and glazed, books, and other articles. The distribution occupied nearly two hours; and at its termination the Earl of Shaftesbury said he regretted the length to which the previous proceedings had run; but still, late as the hour was, he could not part from his friends, the working men, without a few words expressing his high gratification at every circumstance connected with the late exhibition. He had been preceded by two distinguished men in the presidency of their meetings. The first, in his inaugural address, had premised what the working men would do; the second had testified eloquently to what they had done; and now it was his duty to announce the rewards—rewards which were as cheerfully given as they had been honourably and worthily earned. His lordship next proceeded to comment on the variety of the objects exhibited, and their discrepancy with the occupation of the exhibitor. There was "The Early Riser," constructed by a hairdresser. He trusted it would be as useful to the purchaser as it was creditable to the constructor—and who, having first started the working men in the morning, performed almost every duty which was

necessary to fit him out for the day. This only proved how necessary were recreation and variety of occupation for every man. Sir Matthew Hale refreshed himself after his judicial duties with the most abstruse problems in algebra, and Southey had travelled from desk to desk in his library, performing a new literary labour at each. But he had been told of a suggestion to the effect that the exhibitors should be confined each to his own specialty. Heaven forbid there should be such an interdict on genius. Let them remember that the objects of these exhibitions were moral, not commercial, to give a safety-valve to genius and to taste; and a right direction to that otherwise dangerous gift, a lively imagination. But they had another object—the great and burning object of his own heart—and that was to give dignity to the domestic life of labour, to induce working men to give up habits to which they had been addicted, to induce them to go home and to make the homely hearth happy, decent, and respectable. The working men would then find the grate bright, the fire blazing, and the kettle hissing; the cheerful meal ready; and then John would kiss Susan, and Susan would kiss John, and the delighted children would kiss both parents. (Loud cheers.) Lastly, the whole family would join in a wholesome family prayer, and thus would finish the day of the moral and well-conducted workman and his family. (Cheers.) He could not speak too strongly against the suggested interdict. Were they to send the blacksmith back to his forge, the tailor to his board? Did they act thus by lawyers and politicians? If they had thus interdicted Mr. Gladstone and Lord Derby, wou'd they have had the eloquent orations of the former, or the latter delighting the world with his "Homer's Iliad"? It was in fact ridiculous. Did they mean that the gas-lighter was to light the lamps for a prize, the hairdresser to dress hair, or the costermonger to wheel his barrow until he obtained a prize? (Cheers and laughter.) The working men had by these exhibitions emphatically declared that their leisure was not to be spent in the pot-house or the gin-palace, in the smoking-shop or the music-hall, but in pursuits which would elevate their minds and improve their understanding. He appealed to the older working men, the conscript fathers, as it were, of the people, to put down the abominable drinking usages which disgraced almost every trade in this country. (Hear, hear.) He believed that by those usages more harm was done to the working classes than could have happened from the grossest tyranny that was ever perpetrated. He looked forward, as one of the best results of exhibitions such as that the success of which they were then celebrating, to the gradual abolition of the abominable drinking usages of trade. Addressing the unsuccessful exhibitors, his lordship urged them not to be discouraged, and reminded them that many a fair career had been ruined by too early a success. The winning exhibitors he congratulated on the example they had set the country. Already Lambeth and Marylebone were stirring in the metropolis, and indications of coming exhibitions poured in from various parts of the country. One word in conclusion. No man who cared for the people of this country or the human race could deny that these exhibitions had given them the promise of a bright futurity. Might God bless them and their noble efforts. Might those who were bachelors get married, and those who were married have children; might all the sons be brave, and all the daughters virtuous; and, at last, when this worldly race was over, might their Almighty Father take them to his heavenly mansion, "where the wicked ceased from troubling, and the weary were at rest." (Loud cheers.)

Mr. Bodkin moved a vote of thanks to the Earl of Shaftesbury.

Mr. Churchwarden Harvey seconded the resolution, which was carried by acclamation.

The proceedings terminated with the Hundredth Psalm, the whole meeting joining in the harmony.

RAGGED SCHOOL UNION.

The following contributions have been received in aid of the Ragged School Union, from the 20th of December, 1864, to the 19th of January, 1865 (inclusive):—

General Fund.

	£	s.	d.
A. A. (Jan. 17, 1865)	5	0	0
A. B.	20	0	0
A. L. (box)	1	2	6
Allen, Rev. E. B.	0	10	6
Alresford, coll. after Sermons at, per Rev. W. Brodie	7	12	0
Arden, Hon. Miss	3	0	0
Arnot, Miss	1	1	0
Arthur, Rev. W.	1	0	0
Austin, Mrs. Henry	1	1	0
Baker, Miss	1	0	0
Baker, Rev. H. S.	0	10	6
Ballance, H., Esq.	2	2	0
Balmain, Miss	1	1	0
Bankart, Miss E. S. (coll.)	1	0	6
Bax, Edward, Esq.	1	1	0
Bennington, Mrs.	1	1	0
Birch, Mrs. Elizabeth	1	0	0
Boobbyer, Mrs.	1	0	0
Boobbyer, Miss B.	1	0	0
Boobbyer, Miss A. B.	1	0	0
Boobbyer, Miss L. L.	1	10	0
Bradbridge, Miss	1	1	0
Bridge, Mr., Children of	0	5	0
Brixton Prison Officers	1	2	11
Buffett, Miss	0	10	0
Bull, Rev. A. H.	1	0	0
Burrows, Mrs.	1	1	0
Bury, Rev. W.	1	1	0
Carthew, P., Esq.	5	0	0
Catt, George, Esq.	2	2	0
Catt, Miss	1	1	0
Cave, Mrs. C. B.	1	0	0
Challis, J. H., Esq.	10	0	0
Chester	1	0	0
Close, Captain	1	2	0
Comper, H., Esq.	5	5	0
Cooper, Rev. James	1	1	0
Cox, Rev. Joseph	5	0	0
Crabb, Mr.	0	5	0
Craik, Mrs. Julia	3	0	0
Darby, Miss M. (box)	0	14	1
Davison, S. E., Esq.	1	4	0
De Crespigney, Mrs.	5	0	0
Ditmas, Miss L. M.	0	7	7
Ditmas, Miss S. V.	0	14	7
Ditmas, Mrs., per—			
Carter, Mr.	0	5	0
Clunie, Mrs.	0	5	0
Gascoigne, S. T. & A.	0	7	6
Do. (Excursion)	0	2	6
Humphres, Miss (box)	0	6	6
Moore, Miss	0	2	6
Peele, Mr. & Mrs. B.	3	0	0
Redpath, Mr.	0	2	6
Thomas, Miss F.	0	10	0
Veasey, the late Mrs.	0	5	0
Drake, Mr. & Mrs.	1	10	0
Drinkwater, Mr.	0	10	0
Ducie, Earl of	5	0	0
E. S., per Hon. A. Kinnaird	1	0	0
Fairthorne, Mrs.	1	0	0
Fitz-Wygram, Sir R.	2	0	0
Flower, Mrs.	1	0	0
Frankham, Miss	1	1	0
Friend (half-yearly sub.)	0	5	0
Gadesden, A. W., Esq.	1	1	0
Gellibrand, W. C., Esq.	5	0	0
Gent, Mr. J. G.	1	1	0
Gent, Mrs. J. G.	1	0	0
Goldingham, J., Esq.	3	0	0
Grant, R., Esq.	1	1	0
Greenwood, Mrs.	1	1	0
Hancock, Mrs.	2	2	0
Hansler, Mrs.	0	10	0
Hardy, Mr. George	0	10	0
Hatchards, per—			
Burbidge, J. R., Esq.	1	0	0
Crosse, Miss	1	3	0
Donation, A	10	0	0
Durrant, Major	1	1	0
K. W.	10	0	0
Fuzet, Lieut.-Col. F.	5	5	0
Paley, Rev. G. B.	5	0	0
St. John, Lady I.	2	2	0
Hawkins, Miss	1	0	0
Hay, the Misses	1	0	0
Hayne, Mrs. W. B.	1	1	0
Hayter, H., Esq.	2	2	0
Heales, Miss	1	1	0
Heathcote, J. M., Esq.	5	0	0
Henley, Miss	0	5	0
Higgs, Mr. & Mrs. C. Powell	2	0	0
Hofland, Mrs.	0	5	0
Holmes, A., Esq.	1	1	0
Hooker, J. D., Esq.	1	1	0
Hughes, W. H., Esq.	10	0	0
Hunter, Mrs.	1	1	0
Jameson, Mrs. St. Clair	1	1	0
Johnston, Miss	1	1	0
Lancaster, T., Esq.	1	0	0
Lance, Miss	1	1	0
Landon, A., Esq.	0	5	0
Locke, Mr. W.	1	1	0
Lush, Mrs.	1	0	0
Lyon, Mrs.	1	0	0
Mackenzie, Mrs.	1	1	0
Do. New Year's Gift	1	1	0
Macklin, Master (box)	1	7	0
Magge, Mrs.	1	0	0
Marshall, Miss	0	5	0
Marshall, Miss S.	0	5	0
Matthew, J., Esq.	1	1	0
Marsh, John, Esq.	1	0	0
Micklethwaite, Miss C.	4	0	0
Mills, Mark, Esq.	10	0	0
Milner, Messrs. T., & Son	2	2	0
Moore, Mrs. S.	1	1	0
Mortlock, Mrs.	1	0	0
Moss, Mr.	0	10	0
Newcome, Mrs.	1	10	0
Nisbet & Co., per—			
A. C. Z.	100	0	0
Cooper, Miss A.	1	1	0
Cooper, Miss M.	1	1	0
Dolben, Miss	2	0	0
Grahame, Mrs.	2	0	0
Hamilton, Miss E.	1	1	0
Saunders, Miss M. A.	0	10	6
Thackeray, Miss	5	5	0
Ollivant, Miss	0	10	0
Paddav, Mrs.	1	0	0
Paterson, Miss	1	1	0
Parnell, Miss	1	1	0
Pearson, The Misses	5	0	0
Perfect, Robert, Esq.	5	0	0
Pole, Major Mundy	5	0	0
Portal, Miss	50	0	0
Porter, R., Esq.	2	2	0
Randell & Co., Messrs.	1	1	0
Ravenhill, Howard, & Co., Messrs.	2	2	0
Rawden, Mrs.	5	0	0
Reade, Mrs., per—			
Brien, Mrs.	0	5	0
Loft, Miss F.	0	5	0
Oclee, George	0	2	0
Reade, Mrs.	0	18	0
Roberts, Miss	0	10	0
Roberts, Mrs. & The Misses	1	1	0
Roberts, Mrs.	1	0	0
Rudd, Mr. C.	1	1	0
Robertson, P., Esq.	1	1	0
Salt & Co., Messrs.	2	2	0
Sanford, H., Esq.	2	2	0
Sawyer, Mr. E. W.	2	0	0
Sawyer, H., Esq.	1	1	0
Seymour, H. D., Esq.	2	2	0
Small Offering, A	0	1	0
Smith, Captain Edward	1	1	0
Smithers, H. W., Esq.	1	1	0
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Sowler, Miss	1	1	0
Do. New Year's Gift	1	1	0
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Stopford, Admiral R.	1	0	0
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Swann, I. B., Esq., R.N.	1	0	0
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Sweeting, Mr. C.	1	1	0
Tapling & Co., Messrs.	2	2	0
Terry, John, Esq.	5	0	0
Tite, Mrs.	1	1	0
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Usborne, Miss H.	5	0	0
Vere, James, Esq.	25	0	0
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Webb, Mrs.	3	0	0
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